

C. Remarks

The claims are 1, 2 and 4-40, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, which has been cancelled. Claims 4-6 and 36 have been amended to reflect the cancellation of claim 3 by changing their dependence from claim 3 to claim 1. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being allegedly indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner has alleged that the reaction conditions are not recited in the claims and the requirement of section 112, second paragraph, cannot be satisfied by reciting only a reactant in a method claim.

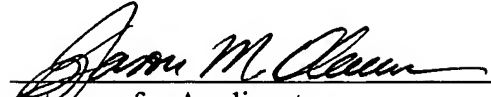
Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 3, which states that the PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoate) is produced in the presence of a microorganism capable of producing this PHA using at least of the substituted alkanes as a starting compound. It is submitted that this recitation is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of section 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the outstanding rejection should be withdrawn.

Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed and the application be expediently passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our

address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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